

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (original): A process for decoupling production of a target fermentation product from biomass production in a fermentation medium comprising:

(a) providing a recombinantly produced microorganism that has been engineered to contain a polynucleotide sequence which encodes biosynthetic enzymes for a target fermentation product, the maximal production of the target fermentation product being dependent on an unlimited supply of a target fermentation product substrate; and

(b) introducing an auxotrophy into the microorganism to control biomass production by limiting the concentration of a substrate complementing the auxotrophy in the fermentation medium.

Claim 24 (original): A process according to claim 23 wherein step (b) comprises introducing a polynucleotide comprising a deletion-insertion mutation into the genome of the microorganism to disrupt the microorganism's ability to produce a compound required for biomass production.

Claim 25 (original): A process according to claim 24 wherein the polynucleotide comprises deletion-insertion mutations within a *bioFDB* gene cassette.

Claim 26 (original): A process according to claim 23 wherein the introducing step comprises transforming the microorganism with a polynucleotide sequence comprising a *bioFDB* deletion-insertion mutation.

Claim 27 (original): A process according to claim 26 comprising transforming the microorganism with a polynucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 28 (original): A process according to claim 27 further comprising selecting for transformation of the microorganism.

Claim 29 (original): A process according to claim 28 wherein selecting for the transformation comprises selecting for antibiotic resistance.

Claim 30 (original): A process according to claim 29 wherein selecting for the transformation comprises selecting for neomycin resistance.

Claim 31 (original): A process according to claim 23 wherein the target fermentation product is riboflavin.

Claim 32 (original): A production microorganism made by the process of  
claim 23.

Claims 33-40 (cancelled).